July 11th 1960

Mr. L. K. Thompson,
Chairman, Seed Bank,
Box 92
Bartow, Florida.

Dear Sir,

This relates to the hibiscus seeds that you kindly sent me in May 1957! Six of the 20 seeds produced plants, and they took a mighty long time to produce flowers. In fact, one of them has not yet produced a flower. I had good growth in large pots; and it was only when I put them into the ground that they flowered with luxuriant growth.

My seeds were from hybridizer W. B. Parnell, and three are reds and two have a yellowish tinge. One small red grows luxuriantly and flowers readily. It remains open at night, and I call it Flame Thrower. It has produced seeds on its own. A larger red, about 10 inches across, is also flame colour, but flower production is scanty. I call it Flame. I have seen a similar flower on the country-side here. A very good one is a reddish double of brick colour and it has four reproductive items. The bud looks like a small fruit and they tend to drop off very often. However, I secured a good specimen and took coloured

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photos of it. I should have prints by September. We have to return the films to the agents; and they are sent to the U.S. for processing and printing. I may get them earlier, and if they are any good I shall send you a print. The flower has no ordinary hibiscus look, and the leaves are like those of the pepper tree. The plant that has not flowered has similar leaves, leaves like those of Ross Estey.

Another has a flower somewhat like the Hibgee's Orange King but with more yellowish tinge; and I have called it Tangerine Queen. (Mrs. Higbee gave me a plant of Orange King many years ago.) It remains open at night.

The fifth is somewhat similar but with a red throat; and it flowered so poorly and grew to such a height that I got rid of it. I did that because Mrs. Iris Bayley of Bridgetown, Barbados gave me four plants from those that she grew from the seeds that you sent to her. One of them produced a similar and better flower, while in a kerosene oil tin, than the flower of the one that I got rid of.

Did Mrs. Bayley write to you? She was very fortunate and obtained about 16 plants from her lot of 20 seeds.

My plants do not stand the climate here very well. They tend to wilt in the hot sun and do not like our strong winds either. They would do better in Barbados.

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Thank God for the Hibiscus
One of His lovliest creations.

To work with it fills our lives with happiness,
And it opens our eyes with wonder and tells
Us of his infinite portrayal of detail and love.

The H. S. Moles Nursery

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(Address 432 Richland Avenue)

HIBISCUS SUITABLE FOR THE NORTH GULF COAST